

C. H. S.

# BANDWAGON

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1955

25c



————— The Circusiana Magazine —————

## CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1939

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zine must be secured from both author  
and publisher.

## The Editor Says

### BUSINESS IS MIGHTY GOOD

We know that all of you have been wondering where the Bandwagon has been. As you know, we publish this magazine ourselves, in our own print shop. It is necessary though that the Bandwagon play second fiddle to our regular work. We are proud to say that business has been mighty good—we have been so darn busy that we have 3 times had to set the Bandwagon back on our schedule. We have been able to get in a little work on it from time to time, and had everything set to print, but no press available to do it. We hope that each of you will understand our position and will forgive us for being so late.

We know now that the Christmas Edition will be out on December 17, and you can depend on that. Some of the work is done on it now and more is ready to be done. All we need to make it a great one, is for you to send in your Christmas Greeting now. In another article you will find information about these greetings. Don't put it off—send it in now—and let us have our greatest issue for Christmas, 1955.

AGNES W. KING, Editor

We are happy to report that our good friend John Arter of Charleston, West Virginia, is recovering from his recent illness.



## Convention Held In Jefferson City

The 1955 Convention of The Circus Historical Society, was held in Jefferson City, Missouri, on September 3rd and 4th. As you all know we were unable to get set with a circus for September 5th, and a two-day convention was what we had. Everyone was pleased with the attendance, although it was not as large as we had been led to expect. However, everyone who was there had a grand time, and we are especially grateful to Hans Dulle and Victor Raithel, who live in Jefferson City, for their efforts in our behalf. Vic, who operates a taxi business, had a cab at the disposal of everyone at all times, and it sure was appreciated.

The business meeting was held on Saturday evening, Sept. 3rd, and was called to order at 8:00 P.M. After the reports of the Secretary and the Treasurer were read and accepted, a general discussion for the good of the Society was held. A number of suggestions were presented for the use of the Bandwagon, and it was generally agreed that starting in January, 1956, each issue would be more or less devoted to one circus. Information about the early history of the show will be given, and a story of their 1955 activities included. This latter because of the fact that this information is truly history now and will be invaluable in a few years. The first circus to be written up will be Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey. (A number of you will be contacted to help get some information about these circuses).

Messages were read from a number of members who were not able to attend, and cards were sent to members who were too far away or in ill health and could not be with us. Discussion was held in regard to the 1956 Convention, with a consensus of opinion that we ought to give consideration to meeting in Peru, Indiana.

On Sunday morning a Memorial Service was held at the grave of Clarence H. Haar, who was a member of the band on the John Robinson Circus in 1917. Mons. Vogelweild, of St. Joseph Parish was in charge of the service. Everyone who was in attendance was very well pleased with the service, and felt that the Reverend Father brought a fine message to us all. At the end of the service, "Taps" was blown by Jerry Brugging.

The banquet was held at the Governor Hotel on Sunday evening, Sept. 4th, and a fine one it was. Guests of honour at the banquet were Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Haar and son, Frank, and Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Haar. The Messrs. Haar are brothers of Clarence Haar. A few pictures were taken at the banquet, and are included in this issue of the Bandwagon. After the banquet many of us had a social meeting and cut up the final jack pots.

D. R. I. K. E. R. donations 1998

Included in the entertainment furnished by Hans Dulle and Victor Raithel, were trips around Jefferson City, where we were shown the real sights of the town. A trip to the Lake of the Ozarks was taken by several members, while many more attended a watermelon party at the home of Hans Dulle.

Monday morning, Sept. 5th, saw us all going home. Happy—full of pep and ready for another convention whenever and wherever it will be held.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank George Brinton Beal for sending so many copies of "The Call of the Calliope;" to Herman Quinius for providing the Ringling Bros. Circus routes; and to F. C. Fisher for sending a box of cigars (which the Secretary especially liked) and for the Dailey Bros. Circus newspaper ad. And lest we forget—additional thanks to Victor Reithel for the lead pencils.

On another page of this issue you will find the Treasurer's report for the past year. We are a little proud of this report—and when you read it we are sure that you will see why.

We are also pleased to tell you that at this time the Circus Historical Society has the largest paid up membership in its entire being. We are proud of that too, and wish to thank each and everyone of you for your fine cooperation in making this possible.



—1955 Convention Photo

**Our Hosts**

**Bette Leonard, Victor Raithel, Hans Dulle**

**THE PHOTO ON THE FRONT PAGE**

Did that front page photo sort of throw you? Did you think that we had at last blown our top? Never fear—we are all here! It's a true photo taken in Jefferson City on Sept. 4 of this year. It seems that a few years ago, Mills Bros. Circus abandoned its Advance truck in Jefferson City. The body was removed and is now used for a chicken house. After tramping down a few weeds and persuading a multitude of chickens to get away, this picture was taken, and we feel sure that never will there be another like it. This is just another of the many things you missed if you were not in Jefferson City.

**FINANCIAL REPORT—CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY****September 1, 1955**

|                               |       |           |            |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Cash on Hand July 1, 1955     | ----- | \$ 626.24 |            |
| Dues                          | ----- | 712.25    |            |
| Convention Dues               | ----- | 200.00    |            |
| Subscriptions                 | ----- | 71.75     |            |
| Ads                           | ----- | 82.00     |            |
|                               |       |           | \$1,692.24 |
| Convention Expense            | ----- | \$ 531.12 |            |
| Bandwagon                     | ----- | 210.00    |            |
| Postage                       | ----- | 82.23     |            |
| Flowers                       | ----- | 15.92     |            |
| Postal Permit                 | ----- | 10.00     |            |
|                               |       |           | 849.27     |
| Balance on Hand Sept. 1, 1955 | ----- | \$ 842.97 |            |

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## How Far? To a Circus

Sent in by Sid Baker, Paddington, Australia

In a recent issue of the "World's Fair" (England) was an article asking the question—"How far does the average fan travel to see a circus performance?"

The writer of the article claimed that a short bus ride would be the average.

Now I claim that by personal experience I know of farmers and people of the "out back" who are not connected in any way with the professional side of circus, who know nothing but the milking of cows and yet have travelled often over one hundred miles to see a circus. The same people go back to their cows and chickens that night and talk about it until the next circus is advertised in the nearest town.

Villages (called townships in Australia) are often more than one hundred miles apart. In the early days these distances were covered by horse and buggy and took a few days to reach the circus but today the modern car does it in a few hours.

I have known however, farmers to take all day to reach the circus by car and take all night to get back to their farms in time to milk and sow and reap and hoe. I've even known men to walk with their bluey on their backs (when given enough notice).

And so I would say that the average distance for a circus fan to travel in Australia is 50 miles.

What of the U.S.A.? Any questions?



—1955 Convention Photo

At the Grave of Clarence Haar

## BOOKS WANTED

1. G. De Josselin de Jong: Wy Zigeuners, als Leeuwentemmer door Europa.
2. Faimali: Les Mémoires d'un Dompteur
3. Robson: Al. G. Barnes Master Showman
4. Jas Daughy: Art of Breaking and training Dogs perform tricks
5. Jules Marcasson: Autobiography of a Clown
6. Dressler: Californias pioneer Circus
7. May: Circus from Rome to Ringling
8. Norwood: Circus Menagerie
9. Disher: Clowns and Pantomines
10. Foster: Clownings Through
11. Greenwood: Circus prior to 1835
12. Stark: Hold that tiger
13. Clyde Beatty: Jungle Performers
14. Cooper: Jungle behind bars
15. Kelley: Land of Sawdust and Spangles
16. Durow: My Circus Animals
17. Thompson: On the Road with a Circus
18. Vail: Random notes on the History of the early American Circus
19. Metcalf: Side show studies
20. Thompson: Wild animal man
21. Velvin: Wild animal celebrities
22. Foster: Pink Coats, Spangles and Sawdust
23. Jo Wiedmer: Circus Knie
24. Lucia Zora: Sawdust and solitude
25. Whimsical Walker: From Sawdust to Windsor Castle
26. Sir Gonard Tyrluhitt Drake: The english Circus and Fair Ground
27. Sir Gonard Tyrluhitt Drake: My life with animals
28. James Lloyd: My Circus Life
29. Carel Birkey: The Pagel Story
30. Lokheart: Great Titains
31. Wirth: Round the world with a circus
32. Wirth: Circus Life and amusements

Please let our fellow member Fritz Dillenberg know if you have spare copies, old or new, of these books. If you know of any place he can buy any of these, write to him at Deutsche Zirkus-Museum, Marzahnstrasse 21, Berlin-Tegel, Germany.

## THANKS

I have just received a Convention card from our much loved President. This card is covered with autographs of C.H.S. members while at the Convention. To look at this card I felt that I know these friends personally, I feel so near and yet so far and I would like this letter to convey my sincere thanks to all those dear friends.

SID BAKER  
32 Moore Park Road,  
Paddington N. S. W., Australia



### CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Yes—Christmas is coming, and we are beginning to think about our Christmas Greetings in the Bandwagon. We have already gotten some greetings in, and want to have a number more. These ads can be had for as low as \$1.00—or you may have a larger ad for \$1.50, \$2.00 or \$2.50. **THESE PRICES APPLY ONLY TO CHRISTMAS GREETINGS—NOT TO ANY OTHER ADS.**

If you want to run a greeting to your friends both in and out of circus business, send in your ad and your money, and we will take care of the matter. All ads must be in by December 10, 1955. The Bandwagon will be mailed First Class mail on December 17, 1955—so everyone will get your greeting before Christmas.

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### GREETINGS

"I have the great pleasure of informing you that on June 15th there has been founded in Germany the Association of Circus Friends." The members of this Association send their heartiest regards to the Circus Historical Society."

(signed) Fritz Dillenberg

Editor's Note: We have some copies of Deutsche Circus-Zeitung, the official publication of the Association of Circus Friends. We would be glad to send them to any of you who can read German.

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—1955 Convention Photo

**Fred Bailey Thompson sells his book**



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## ROUNDUP

By L. M. White

Reprinted from Mexico (Mo.) Evening Ledger, Thursday, Sept. 8, 1955

### CIRCUS HISTORIANS MEET

The writer recently attended the annual meeting of the Circus Historical Society of America which was held in Jefferson City. Naturally there was a local angle to the occasion. In the first place the motivating force behind the organization is Bette Leonard, of Wichita, Kan., who, in her day, has done everything about the big top from handling elephants and cats to riding a Tom Bass, Mexico, Mo., trained high school horse. She is Mrs. Circus herself and her reminiscences of her years on the road are rich in circus lore and adventure which she tells most effectively. She and her husband, the late Fred Leonard, wellknown saddle horse judge, have visited Mexico often.

The meeting paid tribute to the late Clarence Haar, former circus musician, buried in St. Peters cemetery there. Clarence Haar was a nephew of the beloved Father Joseph Haar, who founded St. Joseph's parish in Martinsburg. Father Haar was born in 1858 and died in 1917.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph L. Vogelweild, of St. Joseph's, held a short ceremony at the grave before Mrs. Leonard placed a wreath upon it. In the course of his comment he said that the circus was one of the few forms of public entertainment today that was clean and free from obscenity.

Among those present was Fred Bailey Thompson, popular author on the circus, whose recent delightful book is "Animals Have Tales." He was accompanied by his charming wife, the girl who lived next door to the "lot" and with whom he fell in love.

Fred told the story of the late Dexter Fellows, famous circus press agent, who was advising him about his duties when he started to work under him. "Here's good advice, Fred," said he, "always stick to the truth as much as possible," which of course applied to those glittering, glorious, magnificent and meritorious adjectives which circus press agents in those days could make jump through, roll over and sit up.

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### ENCLOSURES

Enclosed in this edition of the Bandwagon, you will find two things. One a copy of an add for Dailey Bros. Circus, furnished to us through the courtesy of F. C. Fisher and Son Circus. The other is the rules and regulations for the Hagenbeck Wallace Circus—1918. This came to us through the kindness of the family of Clarence Haar of Jefferson City, Missouri.

## Yankee Robinson Enormous Three Rings of 1915

From Bob Taber Press Sheet

A show booked into Rolla, Missouri, for October 7, 1915, was billed as the Yankee Robinson Enormous Three Ring Circus United with Texas Bill's Wild West.

Advertisements declared that the program was presented under the largest tent ever constructed. The features stressed were the three rings, the fact that 1,000 people were with it, the circus traveled on two trains. There were two herds of elephants, 300 circus artists and to operate the consolidation \$1,000,000 had been invested with a daily operating expense of \$4,270. The size of the tent was further emphasized when the accommodations for seating 10,000 patrons was emphasized.

Among the features announced were Captain Buck's 20 performing sea lions, announced as the most startling act ever presented in America. Claim was made that it was the greatest riding show ever exhibiting through that section of the United States and would include Albert Davenport, champion bareback rider of the world; Fred and Bessie Costello, world champion jockey riders; Marie Davenport and Mle. Minne Sweeney, acknowledged champion lady principal equestrienne, Ralph Howser, England's Famous jockey.

In the wild west department the press agent promised besides Texas Bill, there would be Oklahoma Dan, champion bucking broncho rider of the world and Mountain Nell, champion rifle shot of the world.

One feature was to be the appearance of the original Deadwood Stage coach with 100 people in a spectacle entitled Hanging The Horse Thief, a real genuine western story.

"Kongo," the largest beast that walks the earth, larger than Jumbo, will be exhibited. Ten keepers are required to guard him, the biggest brute that walks the earth and Alice, "the famous bear girl," read the stories.

It was said that with the show would come the finest horses ever exhibited. The parade would tell the story. There would be 101 startling new features for 1915; two shows, a circus and wild west for one admission.

### In Memoriam

FRED F. MURPHY

G. FRED ORPHAL

CHAS. H. "DAD" WHITE



## BOB TABER OFFERS

12 CLYDE BEATTY PARADE PHOTOS \$1.75  
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1955 SOUVENIR PROGRAM 50 cents

SIX ASSORTED CIRCUS TICKETS 50 cents

SOME ITEMS TO TRADE. 25c FOR SAMPLE PHOTO  
 AND TRADING LIST.

3668 Comer Ave., Riverside, Calif.

If any of you know where a copy of "Tons of Fun" or "Fun by the Ton" can be bought please let me know. Agnes W. King, 1308 E. Main St., Richmond, Indiana.

## NEW MEMBERS

Frank L. Van Epps, #574  
 Portage, Wisc.

Ted LaVelda, #575  
 711 Short 11  
 Lincoln, Ill.

Herman Quinius, #576  
 Box 431  
 Wichita, Kansas

R. D. Oldfield, #577  
 Oberlin Road,  
 Elyria, Ohio

L. M. (Mitch White  
 #578  
 201 N. Washington  
 Mexico, Missouri

Earl A. Burnworth, #579  
 1217 W. Laurel  
 Independence, Kansas

Joseph G. Beasten, #580  
 407 Valley Road  
 Havertown, Pa.

George Brinton Beal,  
 #581  
 P. O. Box 6  
 Newburyport, Mass.

Hise H. Green, #582  
 2204 Virginia  
 Joplin, Missouri

Herbert S. Hoyt, #583  
 1524 W. 26th St.  
 Joplin, Missouri

Victor Raithel, #584  
 616 Michigan  
 Jefferson City, Mo.

Wallace A. Ahlberg,  
 #585  
 1041 Jessie St.  
 St. Paul 1, Minn.

Johnnie Marietta, #586  
 R. F. D. 2  
 Pittsburg, Kansas

J. Harry Baltzell, #587  
 3101 Wall St.  
 Joplin, Missouri

Theodore Arter, #588  
 914 Drehr Ave.  
 Baton Rouge 6, La.



—1955 Convention Photo

"Whitey," "Vic," Jimenez  
 Jimmy had caught a bone

# "Animals Have Tales"

By Fred Bailey Thompson

**NOW IN ITS FIFTH PRINTING**

THIS DELIGHTFUL BOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE IN  
BOOK STORES

**Written by a man who knows his Circus**

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HERE'S WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT "ANIMALS  
HAVE TALES"

"It's a pretty come-off when a full-grown newspaper columnist sits down on a busy day and starts reading about Elephants, Monkeys, Baby Gorillas, performing Dogs, famous Lion trainers, talking Horses and world famous Clowns. I had no intention of being trapped like this but when I started reading "Animals Have Tales" I just could not put it down. It is truly a Circus Classic. —Celestine Sibley in Atlanta Constitution.

\* \* \*

"Circus Man's Animal Tales Delightful Book. Clowns and animals. What fond recollections of the circus they recall. Today's streamlined "Big Top" has changed but the funny fellows and the animals, from the smallest monkey to the biggest elephant continue as the main attractions. "Animals Have Tales" a most delightful book worthy of everyone's taste." —Sam Lucchese, Atlanta Journal Sunday Book Review.

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Autographed Copy to**

**FRED BAILEY THOMPSON**  
CLARKSON, GA.

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A few of the prominent people who have received their copy of my book and liked it: President Eisenhower, Arthur Godfrey, Bette Leonard, Roger S. Brown, Florence Stancliff, Cecil B. DeMille, Bill Kasiska, Edward Ruppert, Bobby Jones, Roland K. Wilde, Bob and Agnes King, Tom Parkinson, John Sullivan and many others.